

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 5 as follows:

-- As an alternative embodiment, see Figure 5, the protuberance 24 can extend through and actually have its free end extend beyond the depth of the slot 30, that is, the protuberance 24 can enter through one of the external surfaces of the second housing and pass through the slot 30 to emerge outwardly through the other external surface. In such embodiment, it would be possible to eliminate the small bead 26 and simply open the safety catch 18 by pushing inwardly on the protruding free end 60 of the protuberance 24.

--

Please amend page 7, lines 15-21 as follows:

-- A slot 30 is formed in the housing ~~12~~ 10 and, as can be seen, the slot 30 passes entirely through the housing 10, that is, it extends between the upper external surface 31 and oppositely disposed lower external surface 33 of the housing ~~12~~ 10 so that the slot 30 is accessible through either of the oppositely located external surfaces 31, 33.

Additionally, as a feature, there is a pair of loops 32, 34 affixed to the housings 12, 10 to allow the housings 12, 10 to be affixed to the particular jewelry strand, such as a necklace or bracelet. --